

## BOOK REVIEWS

**CORRELATIVE NEUROANATOMY.** By Joseph J. McDonald, M.S., M.D., Joseph G. Chusid, A.B., M.D., and Jack Lange, M.S., M.D., fourth edition, revised. 60 illustrations. University Medical Publishers, Palo Alto, 1948. \$3.00.

This work, which is in outline form, comprises descriptions of the peripheral nerves and the automatic nervous system, the spinal cord and the brain. It attempts to establish correlations between the anatomy and physiology of these structures and the symptoms and signs encountered in many neurological syndromes. It also presents an outline for a neurological examination and a resume of data concerning electroencephalography.

This book is not a substitute for the standard textbooks on neurology. It should provide a means, however, of presenting to students certain bald facts around which can be built a substantial structure of useful knowledge. Its chief value will be to undergraduate students preparing for examinations and to candidates for state board examinations and American board examinations which demand a reasonable amount of neurological information.

\* \* \*

**DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES FOR VIRUS AND RICKETTSIAL DISEASES.** First edition. Publication Office American Public Health Association, 1790 Broadway, New York City, New York. 352 pp., 20 illustrations. \$4.00.

This volume has been prepared by a group of outstanding authorities and is designed to present "a collection of laboratory methods at present applicable to the diagnosis of virus and rickettsial disease in man." This aim has been most satisfactorily attained, the many complicated procedures being intimately described. No experienced laboratory worker should have difficulty in the establishment of the various techniques by following the outlines presented in this book.

The material is presented in 16 sections, each of which is introduced by a brief description of an infectious agent and the human diseases caused by it. Isolation of the virus or rickettsia, and immunological methods useful in the study of infected human beings are then considered in great detail. The subjects covered are psittacosis, lymphogranuloma venereum, trachoma, inclusion blennorrhoea, variola and vaccinia, influenza, primary atypical pneumonia, mumps, poliomyelitis, encephalitis, rabies, herpes simplex, yellow fever, dengue, phlebotomus fever, and the rickettsial diseases.

The technical material will not be of great value to clinicians but the book should be read in part by all physicians. The excellent brief descriptions of viruses and virus diseases will be of interest. In addition, the extreme complexity of virus isolation and immunological diagnostic techniques is emphasized. Too often a request for "virus studies" is made by the clinician who has insufficient understanding of the magnitude of the laboratory investigation which he has suggested.

\* \* \*

**MODERN CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY.** By Arthur P. Noyes, M.D., Superintendent, Norristown State Hospital, Norristown, Pennsylvania. Third Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1948. \$6.00.

This standard textbook of psychiatry has been brought up to date in a fairly satisfactory manner without changing its orientation or style of presentation in any significant degree. The author's approach is the eclectic one, which is admirable, but sometimes the reader is left without much direction regarding varying points of view. The recent advances in treatment have been adequately covered.

The method of presentation is formalized along traditional lines, and is particularly suited to the wants of the student

who feels the necessity of strict classification of clinical syndromes. The amount of case material is adequate for illustrative purposes.

In all, the book is useful to the student or physician who desires a concise presentation of the psychiatric conditions to be seen in hospital practice, but relatively weak in its presentation of the minor reaction types which constitute the great share of psychiatric material seen by the internist and general practitioner.

\* \* \*

**THE TREATMENT OF MALIGNANT DISEASE BY RADIUM AND X-RAYS, BEING A PRACTICE OF RADIOTHERAPY.** Ralston Paterson, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S.E., D.M.R.E., F.F.R. Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1948.

This is a practical and well written book on modern radiation therapy, compiled with the assistance of various authorities, including Margaret Tod, Meredith and others. It stresses the present method of treatment as used at the Radium Institute in Manchester, and is replete with data on the use of radium molds and needles, and radon implants. Diagrams of radium set-ups are shown, and radiographs of the actual placement of radium in different cases are reproduced.

The x-ray treatment of malignant lesions is also presented but not in as much detail as is accorded radium. Paterson apparently still prefers radium, for many types of case which could now be treated with low voltage x-ray or contact x-ray in this country. Indeed, contact x-ray is but briefly considered. Radioactive isotopes are mentioned only in passing.

Unfortunately no statistics are given as to the results of treatment following his methods and the reader is referred for these to the reports of the Holt Radium Institute.

Paterson stresses careful positioning of the patient, and the importance of meticulous care in maintaining position for x-ray treatments. Casts of plaster or plastic are individually fitted. Markers are put in place and films taken to accurately center the lesion from various ports. The tumor may first be outlined with inactive radon seeds or by the introduction of barium! Back pointers and large protractors are used to direct the beams through the previously localized ports. Considerable detail is included in the chapter on field selection and volume dose.

Tables are included for radium dosage using various applicators, and practical rules for distribution and dosage are discussed. There is a chapter on making radium molds. All the detail, however, only emphasizes the need for first hand instruction and practice.

Paterson adds x-ray roentgen and gamma roentgens for total depth dose calculation, but notes that from a biological viewpoint they cannot be summated. He brings out the importance of the time interval in relation to the field size and dose. Many writers tend to mention this briefly, if at all, but it is extremely important for the end results. Paterson indicates that similar results may be obtained with many different techniques and that there are few hard and fast rules in roentgen therapy. However, he suggests certain general types of plan and tends to treat his cases according to one of these plans, for example: 1 day radical or palliative therapy, 4 day palliative, 8 day palliative, 8 day radical, 18 day, 32 day and indefinite period plans. In skin tumors, for instance, small lesions up to 3 cm. in size can be treated with 1750-2000 r in a single session, or by any one of the above